



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

***Raised Bill No. 1016***

LCO No. 3086

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED )

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE SPENDING CAP AND FUNDING FOR  
PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE AN EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY  
TO ALL CHILDREN.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 2-33a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 The General Assembly shall not authorize an increase in general  
4 budget expenditures for any fiscal year above the amount of general  
5 budget expenditures authorized for the previous fiscal year by a  
6 percentage which exceeds the greater of the percentage increase in  
7 personal income or the percentage increase in inflation, unless the  
8 Governor declares an emergency or the existence of extraordinary  
9 circumstances and at least three-fifths of the members of each house of  
10 the General Assembly vote to exceed such limit for the purposes of  
11 such emergency or extraordinary circumstances. Any such declaration  
12 shall specify the nature of such emergency or circumstances and may  
13 provide that such proposed additional expenditures shall not be  
14 considered general budget expenditures for the current fiscal year for  
15 the purposes of determining general budget expenditures for the

16 ensuing fiscal year and any act of the General Assembly authorizing  
17 such expenditures may contain such provision. As used in this section,  
18 "increase in personal income" means the average of the annual increase  
19 in personal income in the state for each of the preceding five years,  
20 according to United States Bureau of Economic Analysis data;  
21 "increase in inflation" means the increase in the consumer price index  
22 for urban consumers during the preceding twelve-month period,  
23 according to United States Bureau of Labor Statistics data; and "general  
24 budget expenditures" means expenditures from appropriated funds  
25 authorized by public or special act of the General Assembly, provided  
26 (1) (A) general budget expenditures shall not include expenditures for  
27 payment of the principal of and interest on bonds, notes or other  
28 evidences of indebtedness, expenditures pursuant to section 4-30a, [or]  
29 (B) current or increased expenditures for statutory grants to distressed  
30 municipalities, provided such grants are in effect on July 1, 1991, and  
31 (C) expenditures necessary to provide an equal educational  
32 opportunity to children in the public schools of the state as required by  
33 a state Supreme Court decision finding that children were being  
34 deprived of such constitutional right, and (2) expenditures for the  
35 implementation of federal mandates or court orders shall not be  
36 considered general budget expenditures for the first fiscal year in  
37 which such expenditures are authorized, but shall be considered  
38 general budget expenditures for such year for the purposes of  
39 determining general budget expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year,  
40 except as provided in subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this  
41 section. As used in this section, "federal mandates" means those  
42 programs or services in which the state must participate, or in which  
43 the state participated on July 1, 1991, and in which the state must meet  
44 federal entitlement and eligibility criteria in order to receive federal  
45 reimbursement, provided expenditures for program or service  
46 components which are optional under federal law or regulation shall  
47 be considered general budget expenditures.

48 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To remove from the spending cap expenditures for programs to provide an equal educational opportunity to students in the public schools.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*